(2) Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad; and

(3) Graduate School of Business and Administration, Ghaziabad.

In order that all such cases could be reviewed in their entirety to assess, *inter alia,* the deviations, if any, from the prescribed terms and conditions of approval of outside institutions/courses, the University Grants Commission has been requested to depute a Committee of three experts to Visva-Bharti to make on-the-spot study of the relevant records without loss of time and to submit its report.

Timings of Kendriya Vidyalayas

4660. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to resort to timing of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi region from 7.30 A.M. has badly affected the studies since many teachers who commute long distance, are unable to reach schools in time due to non-availability of public transport very early in the morning;

(b) whether some schools have reverted to previous timings due to this situation; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not reverting the timings of particularly those schools, which are situated in outer areas of Delhi, where the studies are still suffering?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) School timings have been advanced to 7.30 A.M. in order to give sufficient time for children to pursue their studies in the afternoon. Secondly, this has also been done to protect the children from untoward incidents during peak traffic hours when there is a huge rush of office goers. No case of late coming by the teachers has been reported from any Vidyalaya which is functioning from 7.30 A.M.

(b) Only one Vidyalaya, KV Lawrence Road, had reverted to old

timing for 3 days due to a communication gap. This Vidyalaya has also started functioning from 7.30 A.M. now.

(c) The changed school timings are considered suitable and so there is no proposal to change them.

Basic Education to Adults and Children

4661. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had decided to make education less rigid;

(b) whether Government had taken a decision to depart from the rigidity of former school education and explore the ways in providing basic education to 300 million illiterate adults and about 59 million children in the age group of 6—14 years;

(c) if so, whether any concrete programme of action has been prepared in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Government has recently launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)—a National Programme for Universal Elementary Education to provide eight years of elementary education to all children in the 6—14 age group by 2010. the objectives of SSA are:

- All 6-14 age children in school/EGS centre/bridge course by 2003;
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- Universal retention by 2010.